

# CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

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## POAU SCHOLARSHIPS TO GO TO DESERVING STUDENTS



The Rev. D. E. Rebok, president of the Washington Missionary College, Takoma Park, Md., is pictured above, left, as he received a \$100 check presented by Executive Director Glenn L. Archer on behalf of POAU, for the purpose of establishing a scholarship fund to encourage selected students in specialized inquiries into church-state relations. The college is a Seventh-day Adventist institution.

The first of a series of POAU-financed scholarships which will be awarded by various colleges and universities for specialized studies in the field of church-state relations was established recently at the Washington Missionary College, Takoma Park, Md., with the awarding of a \$100 check to the Rev. D. E. Rebok, president of the college, by Glenn L. Archer, executive director of POAU. Similar grants—amounting to \$1,000 in all—will shortly be made to institutions of higher learning in other parts of the country.

POAU's executive committee had previously agreed unanimously that there is a crying need for college-level research on numerous aspects of the complicated relationships between the churches and

local, state and national governments. For this reason, the money was appropriated.

### "Seek and Ye Shall Find"

"From these small beginnings," Archer declared, "we hope to plant the seeds of a great national revival of the now dormant tradition which is embodied in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States—a tradition which says that every man is free to worship in accord with a free conscience. Separation of church and state, which was designed to guarantee this liberty, is today imperfectly understood and imperfectly appreciated. Therefore, we say, let young and thirsting minds freely inquire into its origins, its meaning and its significance."

## ST. LOUIS COLLEGE GROUPS HEAR ARCHER

POAU Executive Director Archer delivered two important addresses in St. Louis on April 23 and 24, the first under the auspices of the Christian Scientists at The Principia College, and the second under the sponsorship of the YM-YWCA campus organization at Graham Memorial Chapel, Washington University.

An important factor causing widespread confusion over the meaning of the First Amendment, he told his audiences, is the persistent campaign of misrepresentation being carried on by clerical leaders who oppose the principle of church-state separation.

"Any candid examination of the historical background of the First Amendment," he emphasized, "reveals with perfect plainness what was intended by Madison and Jefferson, the men chiefly responsible for its adoption. Congress, by its action in rejecting two proposed modifications of the Amendment which would have opened the door to government aid of all religious groups in common, showed unmistakably that the Amendment, as adopted, was intended to establish the absolute separation of church and state."

### Rejected Amendments

He quoted the rejected amendments as follows:

"Congress shall make no law establishing one Religious Sect or Society in preference to another. . . ."

"Congress shall make no law establishing any particular denomination of religion in preference to another. . . ."

"Today," Archer concluded, "the enemies of religious freedom are attempting to pervert the First Amendment which was adopted by our fathers, and to change its meaning in such a way that the proposal for a so-called 'multiple establishment' of religion—which was explicitly rejected at the founding of this nation—will now prevail. We must not let them succeed."

# Sabbath Law Adjustments Asked by Adventists, Jews

At Wilmington, N. C., City Councilman E. L. White has moved for revision of the city's Sunday closing ordinance in order to afford equal treatment to Seventh-day Adventists and Orthodox Jews, whose religious beliefs call for observance of the Sabbath on Saturday.

"It's unfair," said White, "to ask a man who closes on Saturday because of his religious beliefs to close on Sunday, too."

White's proposal was opposed by City Manager James R. Benson, who offered the specious argument that "the majority of people prefer Sunday as this (legally-recognized) day of rest, and therefore it would seem the issue should be decided by majority rule." POAU and, indeed, everyone who has an understanding of the principles of religious liberty, must always insist that in matters of conscience there is no such thing as "majority rule."

## Issue Raised in Ohio

The same question is also up for consideration at Youngstown, O., where the state Court of Common Pleas is considering an appeal from a decision of the Board of Review of Unemployment Compensation denying such compensation to an Orthodox Jew who refused to accept a position requiring work on Saturday. The case dates back to November, 1948, when Mary Jane Heisler was denied unemployment benefits because she declined to investigate potential employment at St. Elizabeth's hospital after learning that it would require Saturday work.

Legal advisers for the American Jewish Congress and the Youngstown Jewish Community Council, who are aiding Miss Heisler in her appeal, have filed a brief which maintains that the board of review's decision violated the first and fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution, and points to a recent precedent in Pennsylvania, where the State Unemployment Compensation Board of Review reversed itself and granted benefits to an Orthodox Jewish woman.

\* \* \* \*

"... I am compelled from an obligation of Christian conscience to declare openly that I cannot conscientiously pay any federal taxes whatsoever for the federal support of any denominational school. . . .

"Here I stand. God helping me, I can do no other."—the REV. FRANK JOHNSON PIPPIN, Minister of the Community Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo.

## Methodist Bishop Hits Greed for U. S. Funds

Though the Church is frequently accused of furthering socialism, it is one of the few organizations in America which is not trying to get something from the federal government, Methodist Bishop Charles Brashares of Des Moines, Ia., declared at the United Evangelistic Advance program in Moline, Ill., recently.

Bishop Brashares, who spoke before 200 Illinois and Iowa ministers of many denominations, decried the easy acceptance of government funds by all types of organizations which do not believe in socialism, but are none the less willing to take government money.

\* \* \* \*

A resolution passed by the Westmeath County Council, Ireland, calling upon the government to amend the Irish constitution in order to put the Roman Catholic Church "on a plane above the man-made religions of the world," has been denounced by Deputy M. J. Kennedy, spokesman of the Fianna Fail Party. Kennedy said the resolution was contrary to a clause in the constitution guaranteeing full freedom for every denomination.

Believing in the principles and policies of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, I hereby enroll (or reaffirm) as a member.

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## Critic's Opinion of Church "Corrected" by N. Y. Times

Book reviewers who write for the *New York Times* have been put on notice that they are not completely free to express their own opinions in the pages of that newspaper. This was revealed publicly when the *Times* took the extraordinary step of printing a so-called "correction" on the editorial page of a recent Sunday's edition. The caption was misleading, however, for factual matter was not involved in the "correction" at all. It took the form of a rap on the knuckles for the editor of the Book Review section, who failed to delete a statement of opinion from one of that day's book reviews which his supervisors deemed "offensive" to the Roman Catholic Church.

The review in question was by Philip Toynbee, an English writer, and the "offensive" remarks consisted of the following two sentences:

"We are all too familiar with the facile and vitriolic attacks on liberal and democratic culture made by Roman Catholics and members of the political right. Their furious partisanship, their tiresome love of paradox, has produced little criticism of importance."

The book under review was *The Liberal Imagination*, by Lionel Trilling, published by the Viking Press.

Perhaps it is not without significance that Neil MacNeil, assistant night managing editor of the *New York Times*, has been given an award by the Catholic Institute of the Press "in recognition of the manner in which he has reflected the principles of Catholicism in his work as a journalist."

## School Board Waives Rule to Help Church

Renting of a public school auditorium to a local church for Sunday services has been approved by the board of education at Grand Rapids, Mich. In order to aid the Grandville Avenue Christian Reformed Church, which had been forced to give up its previous location to make way for a new and larger building, the school board waived a rule that school facilities "may not be used for religious or sectarian meetings."

The board offered three reasons to justify its action:

1. Two years earlier, a precedent was established when a public school building was rented out for use by a religious group pending erection of a new Christian high school building.

2. Members of the Grandville Avenue church were in an "emergency" situation and needed this aid.

3. It would maintain good public relations in the community. (RNS).



# SYRIAN CHRISTIANS FIGHT "MOSLEM STATE" PROPOSAL

A clause in the projected new constitution for the state of Syria, making Islam the "state religion," has brought strenuous protest from Christian leaders, coupled with action to boycott all official functions and receptions unless the clause is removed. As a first move, all Easter celebrations in the country were cancelled to show how strongly Christian groups in the country felt about the proposal.

Prelates of the Eastern Orthodox and Greek Catholic churches issued joint protests, emphasizing that they opposed the clause not out of hostility to the Moslem religion, but because any establishment of a state religion would force Christian minorities to submit to the Islamic civil code.

## Discrimination Denied

Sheikh Moustafa es-Sebayee, president of the Moslem Brotherhood Party, denied, however, that the constitutional provision would result in discrimination against Christians. "Article Three, which makes Islam the State religion of Syria, also holds that the other revealed religions are sacred and that all citizens, regardless of their faith, are equal in their rights and obligations," he declared.

The sheikh also argued that Article Three was more of a political and national move than a religious one, and that by declaring itself a Moslem state, Syria was reminded of the many ties that link her with other Moslem states.

## BAILEY BILL ADHERES TO BARDEN PRINCIPLE

With hope for passage of any general aid-to-education bill virtually abandoned for this session of Congress, the next proposal to be considered will be a bill or bills to provide federal funds only to the "federal impact" areas, where many school districts are in distress because of a sharp increase in enrollment resulting from proximity to federal works, war plants, military installations, and so on.

Rep. Cleveland M. Bailey (D., W. Va.) has introduced two bills along this line, H.R. 7940 and H.R. 8113, both of which are fundamentally similar to the Barden bill, H.R. 7160, in that they would appropriate funds only for "free public education." The major difference, of course, is that the Bailey bills are much smaller in scale. It now remains to be seen what action, if any, the House Committee on Education and Labor will take upon these bills, and whether they will give rise to renewed conflict between the friends and opponents of the American principle of separation of church and state.

## Jehovah's Witness Loses Appeal Against Park Ban

An appeal by David Carter, a member of Jehovah's Witnesses in Milwaukee, against a county ordinance prohibiting religious services in public parks, was denied recently by Municipal Judge Herbert J. Steffes, who upheld the fine of \$15 and costs which had been imposed on Carter by Civil Judge T. J. Pruss for holding such a meeting. Judge Steffes said:

"The right of religious worship is not involved here. The freedom to worship does not mean freedom to worship anywhere. The ordinance is a logical projection of the constitutional provision for absolute separation of church and state.

"Under the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, a religious group has no right to conduct a religious meeting on public tax property.

"Nothing prevents this or any other religious group from expressing religious views on property which they rent, lease or buy, but the constitutional guarantee does not provide a license to impose religious views on others.

"Not only is this ordinance valid but even if there was no ordinance a person could obtain a restraining order against any religious body conducting a service on public tax property."

*It is rumored that President Truman is giving serious consideration to appointment of a successor to Myron C. Taylor . . .*

*It is hard to believe that the president would repeat such an appointment—one made as a wartime measure by President Roosevelt.*

*Perhaps, too, we should have special envoys to the heads of the Hindu, Moslem and Buddhist religions?*

*Certainly there can be no objection to maintenance of the most friendly relations with the holy see. . . . Those relations, however, can be quite correctly and carefully maintained by the American ambassador to Italy, who is within a few city blocks of the Vatican.—The Denver Post.*

## Youth Leaders to Plan POAU Action Program

We go to press on the eve of a most significant meeting—to be held at the Washington home of Dr. Charl Ormond Williams, member of POAU's executive committee and past president of the National Education Association—which is scheduled to discuss measures for integrating American youth into a nationwide action program for the achievement of POAU's objectives.

The young men and young women who have been invited to attend will have as their host one of America's most distinguished educational leaders. Miss Williams' decision to call the meeting was prompted by her profound conviction that those who will lead tomorrow must train today, and that it is the youth of America who have most at stake in the current struggle to preserve American guarantees of religious liberty. If those guarantees are lost, she emphasizes, then the American way of life will be lost.

"With this meeting," Miss Williams explains, "our executive director of POAU, Glenn L. Archer, will begin to function as a 'talent scout' recruiting the young leaders throughout the nation who will play a substantial part in laying the foundation for religious freedom—stoutly believed by Madison to be the basis of all freedoms."

## BAPTIST CONVENTION REJECTS U. S. FUNDS

After heated debate, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention at a special meeting in Charlotte recently voted against accepting \$697,356 in government funds for the construction of an addition to the Baptist hospital at Winston-Salem. It decided, instead, to raise the needed money through special offerings and by borrowing. At the same time, the Convention authorized the appointment of a committee of 21 members "to look further into the entire question of separation of church and state." (RNS).

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1835 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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Glenn L. Archer

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# Dawson Cites POAU's Interfaith Support in Answer to Keehn

That rarity among men—a Protestant minister who is critical of POAU—was taken sharply to task last month by Dr. Joseph M. Dawson, Baptist national public relations director and recording secretary of POAU, in a statement which overwhelmingly demolished the criticism which had been made. The Rev. Thomas Keehn, legislative secretary of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational-Christian Churches, had charged, in several public addresses and in a statement to the *Washington Religious Review*, that "POAU is in no way representative of Protestantism."

"By using the word 'Protestant' in the first word in its name," he said, "it presumes to speak for Protestantism in the issues involving separation of church and state. At least to the public it appears as the spokesman for Protestantism."

Terming this "inaccurate and misleading," the Congregationalist minister also chided POAU for accepting financial and moral support from the "Other Americans" who are alluded to in its name, for being "an anti-Catholic movement," and for supporting the Supreme Court decision in the *McColum* case along with what he termed "the secular forces of the country." By way of anticlimax, he concluded with the charitable observations that "the motive of those individuals who initiated POAU and carry on its program is commendable," and that "All Americans interested in a free, democratic society and in the responsibility of religion to influence this society should stand together in supporting this doctrine of separation of church and state."

## Point-by-Point Reply

Dr. Dawson's reply, as published in the *Washington Religious Review*, follows:

"I regret that Mr. Keehn, unlike many

of his fellow Congregationalists who actively support POAU, apparently has himself been unable to part with the ideas of union of church and state which prevailed in the establishment of the Congregational Church in Massachusetts Bay Colony, and continued in the union of that Church with the state of Massachusetts until 1833. His repeated criticism of the United States Supreme Court interpretations of the First Amendment in favor of complete separation of church and state indicates that he finds it difficult to support this American principle which has been vigorously championed by nearly all Protestants in this country.

"That Mr. Keehn's objections to POAU are not shared by all Congregationalists is proved by the fact that one of the organization's chief founders and officers is a distinguished member of his church. The personnel of POAU's officers, Executive Committee and National Advisory Council is composed of outstanding leaders in all the major denominations ranging down to the smaller, such as the Congregationalist, even to the very least. Its steadily growing membership throughout the nation reveals a truly representative cross-section of American Protestantism.

## Freedom of Action

"Mr. Keehn is correct in stating that POAU does not act officially for the Protestant denominations. There is no single existing organization which could. POAU was organized by individuals, and in the interest of perfect freedom of action expects to continue on that basis. While it has not been officially adopted by any denomination, it has been most widely and warmly commended by Protestant churches, associations, conventions and conferences throughout the United States.

"Mr. Keehn is also correct in stating that the remarkable financial support which has been accorded POAU is not confined to Protestant church people. As its name plainly shows, it embraces all Americans who believe in separation of church and state, with religious freedom for everyone—Catholic, Protestant, Jew and non-churchman alike. While contributions have not been adequate for the great task POAU has undertaken, they have nevertheless been hearty and generally well-distributed.

"According to both friends and foes, POAU, in its two short years of positive effort to awaken the public to the duty of maintaining the American Constitutional principle, has met with unexpected and large success. It hopes, while ever emphasizing the positive approach and fully respecting the faith and worship of every believer—Catholic, Protestant, Jew and conscience under whatever name—to keep on resisting the application of public funds to non-public institutions, to correct sectarian instruction in the public schools, and to denounce any ambassadorship by the United States to any church—in short, to prevent, if possible, the threatened overthrow of America's most distinctive and beneficial principle, the separation of church and state."

## Chicago Forms POAU Chapter

A local unit of POAU has been chartered in Chicago, with the following temporary officers: Amanda MacDonald, president; Wilma Reynolds Abel, secretary; and Irma D. Carpenter, treasurer. Also active in the unit's work are Mrs. Edward Schaffler, Paula Knight, Blanche Slocum, Rolla Riley, Charles Carpenter and Dr. Bertha Milhern.

Formation of the unit was accomplished at a meeting at which Dr. Charl Ormond Williams, of POAU's executive committee, delivered what listeners described as a "warm and persuasive" address.

The unit plans to hold regular Saturday meetings in space set aside for them, free of charge, in the studio of portrait painter Blanche Slocum.

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